

Downtown Parking Forum

Welcoming/Opening Remarks

Overview of Current Parking System

Public Comment Session

Summary/Preview of Subsequent Forums

Goals of the first forum:

1. Provide basic overview of the current parking system
2. Provide a platform for input and to record, catalog, and compile comments

Subsequent forums will be used to present a summary of what was heard and to begin to establish future options and solutions



2010 - Master Plan



2009- Expansion of MPD



2008- PVPC Parking Study



1997 – Parking Garage Studies Completed



1996 – Town Center Parking Report



1990 – Parking Facilities Study Completed



1989 – Parking Task Force Recommendations



1986 – Expansion of MPD



1985 – Town Center Background Report



Town of Amherst
Massachusetts



Master Plan



Adopted by the Amherst Planning Board
February 3, 2010



✓ **Expand the Municipal Parking District**

Increase shared parking and off-site parking

Inventory existing downtown private parking

Multi-model facilities:

Automobile parking

Public transit/shuttle stops

Access to rail transit

✓ **Directional information**

✓ **Bicycle parking/storage/rentals**

✓ **Stations for hybrid/electric vehicles**



✓ Remove/reduce parking requirements downtown

Parking will continue to be a necessary form of infrastructure

Evaluate existing downtown public and private parking areas for upgrade/expansion:

Boltwood Walk parking garage

CVS lot

Amity Street lot

North downtown

Interior of East Pleasant/Triangle/Pray

Amherst College Alumni lot



Encourage employers to offer parking permits to employees

Adjust meter structure and rates

Most convenient is short-term and more expensive

Progressive structure for meters of 3 hours or more

Add meters on Town streets near the University

Explore payment in lieu of parking provision



PARKING STUDY



Prepared under the direction of the Pioneer Valley MPO for the Town of Amherst
by: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
26 Central Street
West Springfield, MA 01089

July, 2008

Prepared in cooperation with the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works,
the Town of Amherst, the Massachusetts Highway Department and the
Federal Highway Administration.

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Federal Highway Administration.

Study identifies:

2,019 parking spaces total

538 Public Spaces
(on-street metered and public
lots)

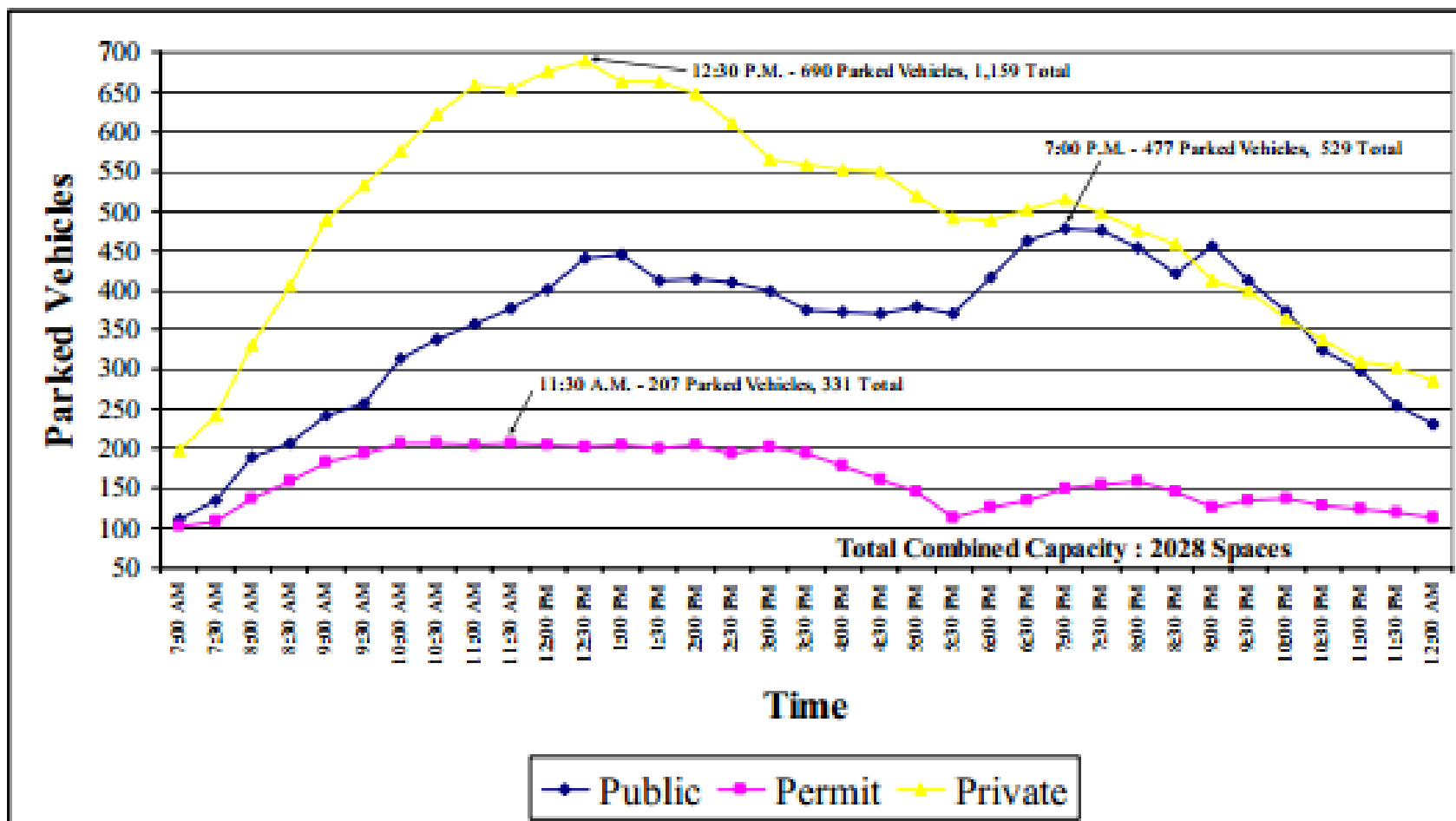
331 Permit Parking Spaces

1,159 Private Spaces
(More than the public and
permit spaces combined)

PARKING STUDY

Study identifies:

“occupancy”, “utilization”, and “turnover” for different parking types



- Private parking is highly utilized throughout average work day
- Public parking increases toward evening hours
- Permit parking remains steady through average work day

PARKING STUDY



Prepared under the direction of the Pioneer Valley MPO for the Town of Amherst
by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
26 Central Street
West Springfield, MA 01103
July, 2008

Prepared in cooperation with the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works,
the State of Amherst, the Massachusetts Highway Department and the
Federal Highway Administration.

Amherst College Transportation
and Planning Department
and Amherst College
Transportation and Planning Department
are pleased to present this report to the Town of Amherst.

Study concludes:

Current parking supply sufficiently meets
current parking demand

Study recommends:

Specific lots (Pray, CVS, Amity)

Public Awareness Campaign

Meter feeding

Long term parking

Overflow parking

Parking use agreements

Future development

Municipal Parking District (Zoning Bylaw)

Created in the 1960's and expanded in 1986 and 2009

Purpose: *"To encourage the dense development and pedestrian spaces in Amherst Town Center"*

What does it do: Exempts certain uses from having to provide on-site parking, for example:

- ✓ Restaurants require 1 space for every 4 seats
- ✓ Offices require 1 space for every 1,000 sq. ft.
- ✓ Residences require 2 spaces per unit



Municipal Parking District

1986-

Added residential uses to list of exempted uses (in addition to commercial and retail)

The Downtown Subcommittee recommended, and the full Planning Board agreed, that one of the potential obstacles to residential uses is its inconsistent treatment in the Municipal Parking Zone compared with commercial, office and industrial uses.

Municipal Parking District



2008-

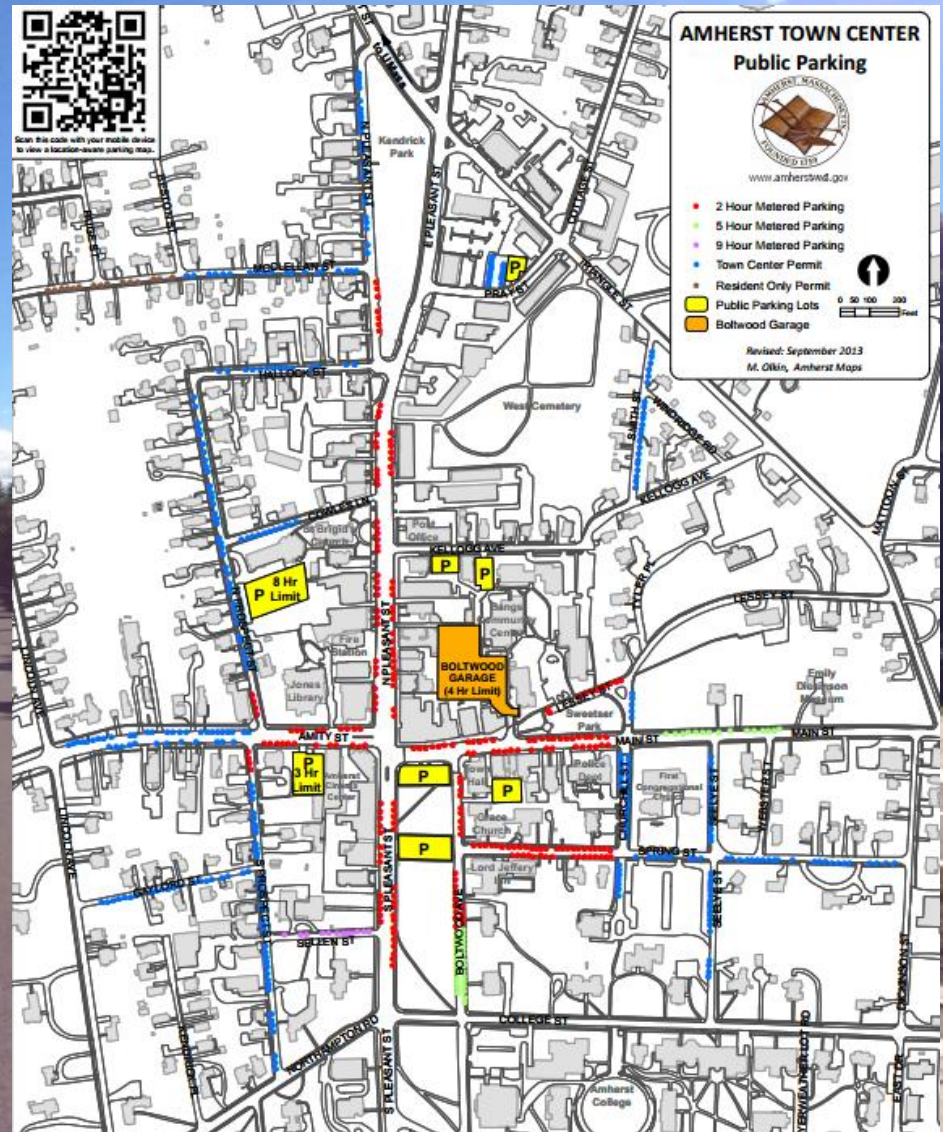
Changed from a “Zone” to an overlay “District”.

Made minor changes to boundaries and updated language.

Highlighted larger policy issue related to expanding the District to other properties and Zoning Districts

Town Center Permit Parking

This system was adopted by the Select Board in October of 2000 and is a non-zoning permit system intended to provide long-term parking for people who live, work, or own property downtown while protecting prime-street parking for customers and visitors.



Town Center Permit Parking

Eligible for people who reside, work, or own property in Town.

FY2014:

740 total permits sold

Approximately 500 to businesses

Approximately 150 for residents

Most recent changes (March 2013):

21 spaces on Gaylord Street

25 spaces on Spring Street*

Public Off-Street Metered Parking

From 2008 PVPC Study:

538 public parking spaces (total)

410 parking spaces in eight lots

128 on-street metered spots (approx)

SITE OF
THE AMHERST ACADEMY
1814 TO 1868

Public Off-Street Metered Parking

2008 PVPC study conclusion:

Lot 48 (CVS lot) highest utilized
at 110% during afternoons

Amity (both sides) meet or exceeds 100%
utilization

Public lot adjacent to CVS not greater than 41%
Northerly lots, such as Pray Street, not greater
than 50%

Private Lots

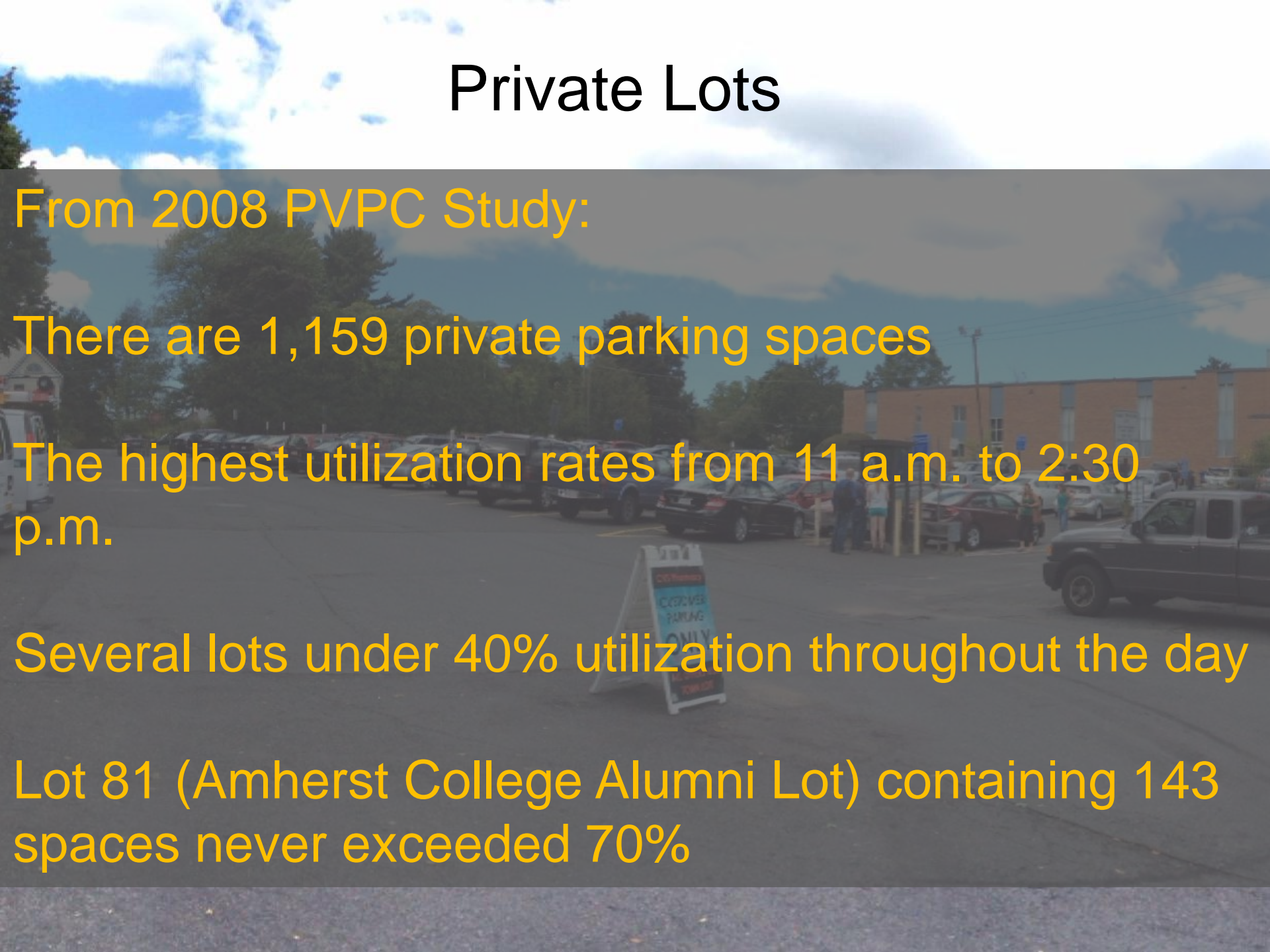
From 2008 PVPC Study:

There are 1,159 private parking spaces

The highest utilization rates from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Several lots under 40% utilization throughout the day

Lot 81 (Amherst College Alumni Lot) containing 143 spaces never exceeded 70%



Winter Parking

No overnight on-street parking from
December 1 to April 1

Limited parking available:

- Lower level of garage

- Metered side of Pray Street

- Some on Campus options

Vehicles ticketed nightly or towed
during storms

Non-Metered On-street Parking

Typically on outskirts of Town Center Permit system

Typically unmarked (except for near some intersections)

Subject to general parking regulations

May require more study



Public Comment

Goal:

Not to provide immediate answers or responses, but to listen, record, and catalog issues, Concerns and questions.

Subsequent forums will be used to confirm issues raised and begin to establish future options and solutions.

- Be Respectful
- Be Constructive
- Be Concise